

**New Shoreham Town Council**  
**Monday, February 1, 2010**  
**Town Hall, Old Town Road, Block Island**  
**7:00 p.m.**

**Present:** First Warden Kimberley H. Gaffett, Second Warden Raymond J. Torrey, Town Councilor Kenneth C. Lacoste and Town Councilor Richard P. Martin. Town Councilor Peter Baute was absent on vacation. Also present was Town Manager Nancy O. Dodge. Town Clerk Fiona Fitzpatrick took the minutes of the meeting.

First Warden Gaffett called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Warden's Report:** First Warden Gaffett reported the Town has filed answers in the abutters Superior Court appeal of the Public Utility Zone. The case has not yet been assigned to a judge for a trial de novo. Ms. Gaffett will attend the Stakeholder's SAMP meeting tomorrow.

**Public Input:** Mr. Lacoste noted the Providence Journal has compared municipalities using data from the Governor's Municipal Fiscal Stress Task Force.

**1. Receive report from Chief of Police re: Cemetery vandalism**

Approximately 50 gravestones in the Island Cemetery were toppled. Some monuments broke on impact. Chief Carlone could not comment on his investigation except to say he is seeking information from the public. Town Manager Dodge said the Town's insurance will not cover the damage. Cemetery Sexton Mike Shea was also present and said Shawn Monument estimated \$8,900 for repairs. A crane truck will come out to reset the monuments in the next few weeks. Families are not encouraged to reset the heavy stones themselves; the Town will pay for the repairs. Donations have been received for a reward for information, and for repairs.

**2. Announce Harbor Master resignation**

First Warden Gaffett reported Harbormaster Christopher Willi resigned January 21, 2010. The Town and the Harbormaster entered into a release agreement on January 27. The Town will pay two months severance and 65% of COBRA (ARRA) reimbursed by federal tax credits to employers for up to 15 months. The Council will discuss their hiring process at their work session later this week.

**3. Act on letter from Cormorant Cove Association re: parking near the Coast Guard Station.**

Peter Tweedy, President of the Cormorant Cove Association, was present. Ms. Gaffett thanked him for his gracious letter, which is attached to these minutes. The Town is a member of the Cormorant Cove Association. The Association moved a fence to discourage use of its common parking property. People have been parking on, and occasionally blocking, the road. The Town will move the fence, and parking will be allowed from April to November. Town Manager Dodge said the Town needs an 'insurable interest' in order to be insured, perhaps a lease for \$1.

First Warden Gaffett moved to accept the Cormorant Cove Association's letter received January 20, 2010 with thanks, and to direct the Town Manager to work out logistics. The motion was seconded by Mr. Lacoste.

Ayes: 4 (Gaffett, Torrey, Lacoste, Martin)    Nays: 0    Absent: 1 (Baute)

**4. Update on the Old Harbor Dock project**

Test results, due tomorrow, will reveal more about the extent of the contamination. It appears now that the gasoline contamination is limited to the area of the old fill pipe used by the Mobil Islander. The Town would like to work with the DEM and CRMC to remediate, and keep Old Harbor contract on track for September, while determining what parties have responsibility. The Town will notify past owners and operators of the gas depot. The Harbormaster's building will be put out to bid in March. It will not be a design-build; the Town will provide the list of specifications and builders will give prices.

**5. Update on PUC Docket 4111**

The PUC has scheduled a public hearing March 16, 2010 at 11:30 on the Island for Docket 4111. Cost allocation between BI Power Company and Deepwater will not be discussed as that issue is

not part of the docket. The Council agreed it would be better if the PUC came when there is a docket assigned to the cable allocation issue.

The power purchase agreement needs to be settled, and the cost of a cable estimated, before cable cost allocation can be discussed. Richard Lacapra has begun work on the Town's concerns with the cable costs, and will be ready to represent the Town's interests at the appropriate time.

**6. Receive and act on Planning Board memo re: GIS Mapping/Zoning**

Town Manager Dodge said this was a capital budget issue.

**7. Receive Annual Report from the Block Island Housing Board**

Ms. Gaffett moved to accept the Report, seconded by Mr. Torrey.

Ayes: 4 (Gaffett, Torrey, Lacoste, Martin)    Nays: 0    Absent: 1 (Baute)

**8. Receive Annual Report from the Department of Building Inspection**

Building Official Marc Tillson was present. He reported on a slow year for the construction trades on the Island.

Ms. Gaffett moved to accept the report, with thanks, seconded by Mr. Martin.

Ayes: 4 (Gaffett, Torrey, Lacoste, Martin)    Nays: 0    Absent: 1 (Baute)

**9. Receive and act on Jack Reed's letter re: FY 2011 Federal Appropriations**

Ms. Dodge suggested the Beach House, New Harbor facilities or more extensive dredging in Old Harbor might be appropriate projects for federal appropriation. There will be further discussion at Wednesday's work session.

**10. Approval of Minutes: January 18, 2010 (open and closed), January 20, 2010, January 21, 2010 with Charter Review, and January 21, 2010 at 5:30**

Ms. Gaffett moved to approve the minutes of January 18, 2010, January 20, January 21 with Charter Review, with changes discussed, seconded by Mr. Martin.

Ayes: 4 (Gaffett, Torrey, Lacoste, Martin)    Nays: 0    Absent: 1 (Baute)

**11. Review upcoming meeting schedule**

The Town Manager work session will be Wednesday February 3, 2010 at 4:00; the next Town Council meeting is February 17, 2010; the Town Manager's evaluation will be February 16, 2010 and a joint meeting with the Shellfish Commission will be held some time in February.

At 8:00, Mr. Torrey moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Lacoste.

Ayes: 4 (Gaffett, Torrey, Lacoste, Martin)    Nays: 0    Absent: 1 (Baute)

Minutes approved February 17, 2010

Fiona Fitzpatrick,  
Town Clerk